

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A rotary pilot valve comprising:
a pair of notch ~~groove~~ grooves formed in a peripheral face of a rotary valve;
a tank port, a pump port, and an output port formed in an inner peripheral face of a body;
a pair of variable throttles respectively formed on a side of the pump port and a side of the tank port of the pair of notch ~~groove~~ grooves; **[[and]]**
an operating lever for operating the rotary valve by rotation,
wherein throttle open areas of the pair of variable throttles are formed in such shapes that the throttle open area of one of the variable throttles gradually increases while the throttle open area of the other gradually reduces according to a rotation angle of the rotary valve by the operating lever, **[[and]]**
wherein an intermediate throttle pressure between the pump port and the tank port and substantially proportional to the rotation angle of the rotary valve is output from the notch groove to the output port,
wherein the pair of notch grooves is formed in pressure balance positions in a diameter direction of the rotary valve,
wherein the pair of notch grooves communicate with each other through a balance hole,
wherein the variable throttles are formed at the notch groove for communicating between the pump port and the tank port,
wherein the intermediate throttle pressure is output from the notch groove to the output port,
wherein the two sets each including the tank port, the output port and the pump

port respectively disposed in positions along normal and reverse rotating directions of the rotary valve around the tank port are formed,

wherein the intermediate throttle pressure between the pump port and the tank port in one of the sets is output to the output port of a same set by normal and reverse rotations of the rotary valve by the operating lever,

wherein two pairs of notch grooves are formed in positions separate from each other along a direction of a rotation axis of the rotary valve, and

wherein the tank ports, the output ports, and the pump ports of the respective sets are disposed in positions corresponding to the respective pairs of notch grooves separate from each other.

2. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A rotary pilot valve according to claim **[[4]]** 3, further comprising an automatic return mechanism with which the operating lever is automatically returned to an initial position where tilting starts.

9. – 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A rotary pilot valve according to claim **[[4]]** 3, further comprising a detent mechanism with which the operating lever can be retained in a tilted position.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A rotary pilot valve according to claim **[[4]]** 3, wherein the body includes a structure for airtightly housing the rotary valve.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A rotary pilot valve according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 3, wherein the rotary valve is a cylindrical valve.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A rotary pilot valve according to claim 16, wherein a plurality of cylindrical valves are arranged in series along an axial direction of the valves.

19. (Withdrawn) A rotary pilot valve according to claim 4, wherein the rotary valve is a ball valve.

20. (Withdrawn) A rotary pilot valve according to claim 4, wherein the rotary valve is a stone-mill-like valve.

21. (New) A rotary pilot valve comprising:
a pair of notch grooves formed in a peripheral face of a rotary valve;
two sets of ports, each including a tank port, a pump port, and an output port formed in an inner peripheral face of a body, each set corresponding to a notch groove;
a pair of variable throttles respectively formed on a side of the pump port and a side of the tank of each notch groove, and
an operating lever for operating the rotary valve by rotation,
wherein each notch groove is formed in such shapes that one throttle open area of the pair of the variable throttles gradually increases while throttle open area of the other gradually reduces according to a rotation angle of the rotary valve by the operating lever,
wherein each set of ports is disposed in positions along normal and reverse rotating directions of the rotary valve around the tank port are formed,
wherein the intermediate throttle pressure between the pump port and the tank port in one of the sets is output to the output port of a same set by normal and reverse rotations of the rotary valve by the operating lever,

wherein two pairs of notch grooves are formed in positions separate from each other along a direction of a rotation axis of the rotary valve, and the tank ports, the output ports, and the pump ports of the respective sets are disposed in positions corresponding to the respective pairs of notch grooves separate from each other, and

wherein an intermediate throttle pressure between the pump port and the tank port and substantially proportional to the rotation angle of the rotary valve is output from the notch groove to the output port.